

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining polarisation polarization of an electrode of a VRLA battery, the method including the steps of: allowing the battery to discharge for a selected period of time, monitoring the battery voltage during the selected period, detecting a first change in the battery voltage during the selected period of time and a second change in the battery voltage during the selected period of time, and associating the first change with polarisation polarization of a negative electrode and the second change with polarisation polarization of a positive electrode, and determining the polarization of the electrode from the associated change in the battery voltage during the selected period of time.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 including detecting the magnitude of the change in voltage to determine the polarisation polarization of the electrode.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[3]] 1 including comparing the polarisation polarization of at least one electrode with an expected polarisation polarization value or range of polarisation polarization values to determine parameters of a float charge to be applied to the battery.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of discharging comprises open circuit charge leakage.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of discharging comprises closed circuit enforced discharging.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of discharging occurs as part of a current perturbation applied to the battery.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the polarisation polarization of the negative electrode is determined.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 further including the step of using the difference between the battery voltage prior to discharge and the polarisation polarization detected to determine the polarisation polarization of the other electrode.

10. (Original) A method of providing a float charge to a VRLA battery, the method including the steps of: allowing the battery to discharge for a selected period of time, monitoring the battery voltage during the selected period, and applying a float charge to the battery dependent on the change in battery voltage over the selected period.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of discharging comprises open circuit charge leakage.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of discharging comprises closed circuit enforced discharging.

13. (Original) A method of providing a float charge to a VRLA cell, the method including the steps of: determining the peak Tafel equivalent resistance for the cell and applying a voltage to the cell electrodes dependent on the determined equivalent resistance.

14. – 18. (Canceled)